

Message From SGI-USA Women's Leader Linda Johnson

Let's Develop a Youthful SGI

TO MY DEAREST SISTERS IN FAITH, THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS to bring 2011 to a victorious conclusion! As we advance toward SGI-USA Women's Day in February, I'd like to share SGI President Ikeda's recent encouragement with you.



by **Linda Johnson**
SGI-USA Women's Leader

In November, I attended the SGI Leaders Autumn Training Course in Japan as a representative of all the SGI-USA women. As its conclusion, the participants received a powerful departure message from our mentor, SGI President Ikeda.

In it, he writes: "You and I are always together in spirit. I will be continuing to devote prayer after prayer for you, that you will forge new paths for yourselves as my disciples, and that you will develop even further as individuals and leaders in the process. I will be praying that you successfully lay the unas-

sailable foundations of the SGI to flourish for an eternity. I will always be with you, watching over every development.

"The time has finally arrived for all my disciples to rise up as one . . . a time to unleash the tidal forces that will drive the growth of a 'youthful SGI' as we set out toward the Soka Gakkai's centennial anniversary in 2030; a time when leaders leap into action before their fellow members at the forefront of kosen-rufu, and create new paths of victory with the force and fury of mighty lions."

President Ikeda continues:

"I ask that you lead the way forward, advancing even further, always in good cheer—your respective SGI organizations made indivisible from the principle of 'many in body, but one in mind.' The task of ensuring the unqualified triumph of mentor and disciple lies entirely with you now. I will be praying for your epic success, longing for that day to come."

I would like to ask all the women to consider this a personal message to them. Our mentor has asked us to rise up as one and create a "youthful SGI." We, as the women of the

SGI-USA, must be the ones who respond to and actualize his request.

It is our mission to raise the leaders of our society, of our country, for the sake of the future. It is our mission to develop citizens who will lead contributive lives. For that reason, the SGI-USA women will not have a separate women's theme for 2012. Rather, in the spirit of many in body, one in mind, we want to actualize our mentor's expectations, which are embodied in the 2012 theme—the Year of Developing a Youthful SGI.



Creating a 'youthful SGI' means becoming ever more youthful ourselves.

How do we do this? Ultimately, we must lead by example, becoming women who develop the depth of faith to view every challenge as an opportunity to do our human revolution and prove the power of the Mystic Law through our lives.

It also means taking responsibility to foster successors, of every age, and in every sense of the word, with the spirit that we want those around us to become even more capable than ourselves.

President Ikeda writes: "We go through many different periods in life. There are times when we are faced with huge problems that seem like a raging tempest. But it is crucial at such times to courageously press forward, without running away—when you are able to review the experience and take something from it, that becomes the source for creating value in your life" (*The New Human Revolution*, vol. 14, p. 298).

Creating a youthful SGI is not only about fostering youth; it's also about becoming ever more youthful ourselves. It's about embodying the determination to continually challenge our limitations, and to stay fresh and open to new ideas.

If youth means fearlessness, passion and viewing everything

as possible, our mission next year is to actualize these principles in our lives and the lives of those around us.

This year's focus—'Victory Introductory Meetings.'

In February, we will once again commemorate Feb. 27, SGI-USA Women's Day, with "Victory Meetings," which allow many women and young women to spontaneously share their faith victories. This year, we'd like to expand these meetings to become "Victory Introductory Meetings." For

that reason, we'd like to ask the women to hold these meetings at the group or district level, creating more intimate settings to invite our family and friends.

The meaning of victory in faith.

What types of victories should we share at these meetings? During the autumn training course, I attended a lecture by SGI Study Department Leader Katsuji Saito, in which he focused on three different letters that Nichiren Daishonin wrote to Shijo Kingo at a time when he was facing the possibility of

losing everything.

From the letters, "A Warning Against Begrudging One's Fief," "The Hero of the World" and "The Three Kinds of Treasure," Mr. Saito extracted four different perspectives on victory. They are:

1. Victory means to take everything as an opportunity to challenge our own fundamental darkness and reveal our Buddhahood.
2. Victory means to make a profound, earnest determination to base everything on faith—no matter what—especially when

we're facing our most difficult challenges.

3. Victory means to establish a set of values based upon making the treasures of the heart the most important aspect of our lives.

4. Genuine and complete victory occurs when we can use our victory to help others deepen their correct understanding of Nichiren Buddhism.

As women, let's unite and reply to our mentor's expectations during this most significant year. Let's live and breathe these meanings of victory. **WT**

On Victory Introductory Meetings

- The Victory Introductory Meetings will be held between Friday, Feb. 17, and Monday, Feb. 27.
- They do not replace the district discussion meetings for February.
- Victory meetings should be held at the group or district levels to create a more intimate setting to invite family and friends.
- Please assign one woman at your meeting to take attendance and report it immediately following the meeting to the next level women's leader. (For instance, a group leader would report attendance to her district leader.)
- It is not necessary to send a detailed summary of meetings to the SGI-USA Headquarters as we did in 2011.
- Please feel free to send a report to SGI President and Mrs. Ikeda, who will be so delighted to hear about the wonderful victories shared at your meetings!